



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**CENTER FOR
INNOVATION
AND IMPACT**

Staff Spotlight: Julia Dreher

Program Assistant



Q: What is your role at USAID?

A: I am a Program Assistant with the Center for Innovation and Impact (CII) focused on general program support. In my role I assist our Acting Director and provide administrative help to our team broadly. I also manage our communications for the team.

Q: What did you do prior to joining CII?

A: Most recently I worked as a political organizer on campaigns in Michigan and Georgia. Prior to my time on campaigns, I managed an incubator at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor focused on providing training, mentorship and funding for student-led projects addressing social and environmental challenges. I've also spent some time working with the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator at the U.S. State Department, the German Marshall Fund, and a small microfinance initiative in eastern Uganda.

Q: What drew you to CII?

A: I've been drawn to government and innovation work separately for a long time now. Seeing a team that was working to innovate within the government context was the perfect combination for my two main interests. The people here are also incredible.

Q: What makes you passionate about your work?

A: The chance to find innovative solutions that have the potential to improve people's well-being feels like the coolest job in the world. Beyond the potential impacts, getting to be surrounded by a team that cares deeply about what they are doing continues to motivate me and further my passion for the work.

Q: What do you like to do outside of work?

A: Spend time with my friends and family, get outside, listen to (preferably live!) music

Q: Favorite Book or Podcast

A: Some of my favorite podcasts right now are "Unlocking Us" and "Dare to Lead" with Brene Brown. I recently finished *Exhalation*, which is a series of short stories by Ted Chiang, and it was a great read.